

North High Grad Dies in Vietnam Action

Torrance

Press-Herald

Published semi-weekly Wednesday and Sunday by King Williams Press, Inc. Entered as second class matter January 30, 1914, at Post Office, Torrance, California, Under act of March 3, 1879.

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Series II, Volume II, No. 68



3238 Sepulveda Blvd., Torrance, California - Wednesday, February 22, 1967

10c Per Copy By Carrier 50c Per Month By Mail, \$15 per Year

48 PAGES



CHECK DEBRIS . . . Torrance firemen check through debris after putting out a fire Saturday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Mandel at 21310 Anza Ave. Mrs. Mandel, who sustained first, second, and third degree burns over 20 per cent of her body, remains in serious condition at Little Company of Mary Hospital. Her husband was released from the hospital

Sunday, it was reported. A neighbor, R. J. Conner of 21309 Anza Ave., and an unidentified passerby rescued Mrs. Mandel from the home, the Press-Herald was told. Damage, caused mostly by smoke, was estimated at \$5,000. An investigation into the cause of the fire is continuing.

(Press-Herald Photo)

Chapel Rites Set Here on Thursday

Young Marine Killed

A young Marine, described by friends at North High as "a nice, quiet guy," was among Southland servicemen reported killed in Vietnam in a Defense Department announcement Monday.

Marine Pfc. Edward J. Ernst, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Ernst, 17304 Van

Veteran Solon Dies Suddenly

Episcopal funeral services will be conducted Thursday afternoon for veteran Assemblyman Charles E. Chapel, who died early Monday, apparently of a heart attack while asleep.

The Rev. Robert A. Tourigny will conduct the rites of the church at St. Francis Episcopal Church, 2200 Via Rosa, Palos Verdes Estates, beginning at 2 p.m. Burial will be in Fort Rosecrans, Point Loma, on Friday with military honors.

Chapel was a graduate of the United States Naval Academy and a retired Marine Corps officer.

HIS DEATH was discovered about 5:30 a.m. Monday when his wife Dorothy tried to arouse him at their Sacramento apartment near the Capitol. Unable to awaken him, she called a physician who reported that he was dead. His death was believed to have been the result of a heart attack.

The sudden death of the veteran legislator brought immediate expressions of sorrow and grief from those who knew him.

"HE SERVED with distinction in the Assembly since 1950, and his death will be a great loss," Gov. Ronald Reagan said.

Joining in the tribute was the Assembly minority leader, Robert T. Monagan of Tracy, who said Chapel "had become an institution himself, and represented the type of legislator who fought hard for the principles in which he believed."

Those principles included Americanism and a genuine loathing for radicalism in its many forms, crime, and dishonest business practices.

His legislative record has been marked with his efforts to combat communism, narcotics, loan sharks, and crime in all its guises.

The memory of Assemblyman Chapel was honored by Los Angeles County Supervisors Tuesday on the motion of Burton W. Chace.

At Chace's request, the Supervisors adjourned their meeting in honor of the deceased Assemblyman.

"The death of Assembly-

man Chapel came as a shock. It is a tragic loss for residents of the South Bay beach cities and the Palos Verdes Peninsula, which he so ably represented," Chace said.

CHAPEL WAS born on May 26, 1904, in Manchester, Iowa. At the age of 9 he cheated death when he was stricken with a severe case of polio, and recovered sufficiently to enter the U. S. Naval Academy where he received a bachelor of science degree. He served in the U. S. Infantry and as a Marine Corps officer, seeing duty in Cuba, Nicaragua, the Philippines, and China.

CHARLES E. CHAPEL
Veteran Legislator Dies

Governor Must Call Election

A successor to Assemblyman Charles E. Chapel must be chosen at a special election called by Gov. Ronald Reagan, the Press-Herald has been informed.

Reagan is expected to issue a proclamation soon calling the election and giving 70 to 180 days notice. A special primary election must be scheduled and if no candidate wins a majority, a runoff is scheduled between the leading candidates in each party.

A period of 30 to 40 days will be opened for nominations prior to the primary, and candidates may circulate nomination papers after paying a filing fee of \$60.

The runoff election will be scheduled four weeks after the primary, according to the state election code.

Recall Charges Answered - - -

Three Lomita councilmen, named last week in a recall action, yesterday branded charges that they held closed meetings in violation of state law as "utterly ridiculous." In a joint statement, Mayor Joe Haslam and Councilmen Ray Ferrin and Meadd Gardiner said the charges "are childish, absurd, and indicate a complete lack of understanding of the requirements of the law and the mechanics of city government." The recall action was initiated by Mrs. Dessie G. Myers of 25925 Narbonne Ave. She said a majority of the members of the Lomita Homeowners Association support the effort. The three officials said they were "confident the people of Lomita will see through this attempt to wrest control of civic affairs from the City Council in order to further their own selfish aims."

Two Cars Strike, Kill Woman - - -

A pedestrian, struck by two vehicles as she attempted to cross Hawthorne Boulevard near Sepulveda, was hurled 240 feet to her death Tuesday evening. Mrs. Pauline M. Knowles, 58, of 4716 Merrill St., was crossing Hawthorne Boulevard in the middle of the 22400 block just before 7 p.m. when struck by two southbound vehicles. Police identified the drivers as George M. Barr, 37, of Rolling Hills Estates, and Linda Thompson Mead, 26, of 3922 Emerald St. Neither was held pending investigation. Mrs. Knowles was dead when taken to Little Company of Mary Hospital.

Torrance Elections Combined - - -

County Supervisors have instructed the Registrar of Voters to assist with a Torrance election on April 18 on the recommendation of Supervisor Burton W. Chace. The city of Torrance had requested that the Registrar assist with a combined special municipal election on library bonds and the regular School Board election. The County will be reimbursed for the Registrar's services by the city and the Torrance Board of Education.

Second Area Accident

Chlorine Line Ruptured; 'Green Cloud' Falls 33

Deadly chlorine gas, billowing up from a ruptured underground line, sent 33 persons to the hospital for treatment yesterday noon.

Crews on a county road improvement project near 223rd Street and Wilmington Avenue and workmen in nearby

plants were overcome after the line had been accidentally cut.

Ambulances stationed throughout the area were summoned to take the victims to hospitals after most were treated in the newly opened county fire station just a few

yards away from the accident scene.

TUESDAY'S accident was within a quarter of a mile of the spot where a chlorine line was ruptured last Sept. 12. Sixty-five were overcome in September.

Witnesses told newsmen that a "green cloud" of the deadly gas spread over the area after a bulldozer blade ruptured the line.

Ambulances took 26 of the victims to Harbor General Hospital where doctors set up treatment facilities outside. A hospital spokesman said the fresh air was an antidote to the chlorine gas poisoning. Seven others were taken to Memorial Hospital in Long Beach.

INVESTIGATORS said the chlorine line belonged to the Stauffer Chemical Co. and was used to pump the gas to the American Chemical and Plastics Corp. nearby where it was used in manufacturing processes.

Among the victims were employees at the Whitfield Oil

Co. on 223rd Street just east of the new fire station.

Among those treated at Harbor General Hospital were several from the Torrance area. Treated and released were Richard Neal, 29, a fireman, 1634 Dixon, Redondo Beach; Alvin W. Bennett, 1606 N. Marine Ave., Wilmington; William R. Weldecker, 952 W. 223rd St.; and L. D. McCormick, 25105 Belle Porte Drive, Harbor City.

Operator of the bulldozer was Joe Gullatto, of 140 W. 244th Place, who was treated and released.

Harvey to Join Training Firms

An agreement between the county and Harvey Aluminum Co. has been approved which will make the Torrance firm the ninth to agree to train welfare recipients for good-paying jobs. Supervisor Burton W. Chace said the training program is part of the federal Economic Opportunity Act of 1964.

The project is financed with federal funds, Chace said.

Edward J. Ernst Dies in Vietnam

Ness Ave. was a member of the North High School graduating class last June.

His friends at North recalled Ernst as a quiet, good student but seldom in the spotlight of athletics, or student organizations.

"He was just a nice, quiet guy, one of the many fine students on campus," the Press-Herald was told.

Ernst was graduated from recruit training at San Diego last Oct. 4 and was assigned to Camp Pendleton Marine base for combat training before being sent to Vietnam.

His death reported here Monday was the ninth in the Torrance area since last July.

Details of his death were not reported in the Defense Department announcement.

Del Amo Project

Plans to improve a 1.5-mile section of Del Amo Boulevard between Avalon Boulevard and Central Avenue have been approved and bids will be received March 14, according to Supervisor Burton W. Chace.

Board Delays Plans for Hickory School

Approval of preliminary plans for an eight-classroom addition at the Hickory Elementary School has been delayed until at least March 6 by the Torrance Board of Education.

The board, acting on the suggestion of Mrs. Kenneth E. Watts, agreed to the two-week delay by a 2-1 vote. Dr. Kurt T. Shery voted against the delay and Bert M. Lynn and Dr. Donald E. Wilson were absent Monday.

Mrs. Watts said she was "literally deluged with telephone calls" following the Feb. 6 meeting at which the board, by a 3-2 vote, agreed to add the eight classrooms to the Hickory School.

By adding the classrooms, boundaries for the Hickory School remain essentially unchanged. Many parents in the area had asked that boundaries be changed and that some 190 children be transferred to the new Sam Levy School when it opens.

The board, however, decided to set the westerly and southerly boundaries for Hickory School at Maple Avenue and 235th Street, thereby leaving total enrollment at Hickory School at about 1,000. Estimated enrollment at the Levy School during the initial year is about 500.

Mrs. Watts asked for a two-week delay in approval of the plans to give people who op-

posed the additions time to discuss the problem with Lynn and Dr. Wilson. Both voted for the addition.

Both men were out of town for a national school association convention for much of the past two weeks, Mrs. Watts noted.

Residents of the Palo del Amo development westerly of the Hickory School contend the community should not be broken apart. Children living within a block or two of Hickory School would be forced to walk to the new Levy School if the boundary should be changed.

Lynn, in casting the deciding vote two weeks ago, said changing the boundaries of-

posed the best solution "in the short run," but noted that the long run interests of the school district would be best served by adding the classrooms at Hickory School.

In other action Monday, trustees:

• Approved preliminary plans for a fine arts building at West High School. Cost of the new facility is estimated at \$414,400.
• Accepted \$50,607.91 in settlement of an insurance claim for an old gymnasium structure at Torrance High. The settlement is for fire damages and will be used for demolition of the building, which does not meet state standards for safety.